



project

DMZ

Korea

June 9, 1988

Dear

STOREFRONT invites you to participate in "Project DMZ", an international project aimed at understanding the nature of human conflicts through the generation of alternatives to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Viewing the Korean DMZ as a product of political, military and economic polarization, the project calls for the intervention of aesthetic forces to initiate possible paths toward re-unification of the nation and its people.

PREMISE:

The premise of this project is the Korean DMZ, and its consequential dismemberment of a nation, society, culture and people. The DMZ's illusionary representation of stability forbids the fundamental ingredients of dialogue and human contact necessary for human affairs while subsequently nurturing our will for unity and exchange. Ironically, the DMZ, site and symbol of neither war nor peace, will most likely instigate either war or peace.

OBJECTIVES:

This project invites proposals for events, strategies, objects, ideas and other forms of action, taking place within the physical and or conceptual framework of the DMZ, to generate a set of possibilities that could provoke the elimination of DMZ through peaceful means. Although a critical assessment of the past and present state of the DMZ is essential, the project requests its participants to make proposals with regard to its future. "Project DMZ" is theoretical, and is a form of cultural production whose intention is to develop a socio-aesthetic "vision" for the benevolent use of the DMZ. The proposals shall be disseminated to the public through exhibitions and publications, in order to provide the possibility of their manifestation in the future.

PURPOSE:

"Project DMZ" is a forum inviting the participation of individuals of different generations, cultures and mediums of expression. This forum, a coalition of diverse individuals under common purpose, opposes specialization and division amongst intellectual fields and rather supports an environment for human exchange, a condition antithetical to the nature of DMZ itself.

We are hopeful that "Project DMZ" will generate a wide range of critical and alternative views of DMZ, while reinforcing the positive role and function of arts in society.

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